

CLAIMS

1. A system for tracking and locating objects (10) arranged in a storage space, comprising:

5 - a transponder (16) associated to each object (10), equipped with an identification code of the associated object,

- tracking means (18) able to locate a given transponder (16) from a signal emitted by this transponder (16),

- an indication system (30) physically independent from the objects to be tracked (10) and from the transponders (16) and equipped with indicating means (30) arranged in the storage space,

10 characterized in that it comprises in addition

- a database (32) enabling one or more of said indicating means (30) situated in proximity to said location to be determined for each location in the storage space,

15 - control means (26) able to question the tracking means (18) on the location of a transponder (16) corresponding to a given identification code, to consult the database (32) to determine said indicating means (30) corresponding to the location determined by the tracking means (18) and to activate said indicating means (30) situated in proximity thereto.

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2. The system for tracking and locating objects according to claim 1, characterized in that

- the database (32) enables one or more of said indicating means to be determined for each location in the storage space enabling an access route to said location to be marked out;

- the control means (26) are able to activate said indicating means (30) marking out an access route between a preset point and the indicating means (30) situated near to the transponder (16).

30 3. The system for tracking and locating objects according to either one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the indication system is physically independent from the tracking means (18).

4. The system for tracking and locating objects according to any one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that

- the tracking means (18) comprise means for emitting a call signal;
- 5 - at least one of the transponders (16) is a passive transponder equipped with receiving means for receiving said call signal and with emitting means for emitting a response signal, the receiving means being able to extract from the signal received the energy necessary for activation of the means for emitting the response signal.

10 5. The system for tracking and locating objects according to any one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that

- the tracking means comprise a plurality of receiver beacons, each receiver beacon having a set spatial receiving field,
- the control means are connected to the receiver beacons of the tracking means by means of a multiplexer or a network.

15 6. The system for tracking and locating objects according to any one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that

- the tracking means comprise a plurality of emitting beacons (18), each emitting beacon having a set spatial receiving field,
- the control means are connected to the emitting beacons (18) of the tracking means by means of a multiplexer (22) or a network.

20 7. The system for tracking and locating objects according to any one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the emitted and received signals are electromagnetic signals.

25 8. The system for tracking and locating objects according to any one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the indicating means (30) comprise display means such as light-emitting diodes or LCD screens, and/or acoustic emitting means

30 9. A procedure for tracking and locating objects implementing a system according to any

one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the transponder associated to the searched object is located by analysing the configuration of the antennas that "see" or don't "see" the transponder, using a binary approach.

- 5 10. The procedure for tracking and locating objects implementing a system according to any one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the transponder associated to the searched object is located by measuring the energy absorbed by the transponder.
- 10 11. The procedure for tracking and locating objects implementing a system according to any one of the foregoing claims, characterized in that information on the location where a document identified by the identification code of the transponder (16) has to be filed is entered in the database (32) according to a preset procedure.
- 15 12. The procedure for tracking and locating according to claim 11, characterized in that the document to be filed is selected by software by supplying a selection order to the microcontroller (26).
- 20 13. The procedure for tracking and locating according to claim 11, characterized in that the document to be filed is positioned close to a specific inductive loop of the tracking means (18) to have said document identified by the control means (26).